



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

FEB 27 2012

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

S-6J

Kim E. Ferraro, Esq.
Hoosier Environmental Council
3951 North Meridian, Suite 100
Indianapolis, Indiana 46208

Re: Town of Pines Superfund Alternative Site, Porter County, Indiana

Dear Ms. Ferraro:

Thank you for your February 2, 2012 letter to Regional Administrator Susan Hedman regarding information about the radiological risks at the Town of Pines Superfund Alternative Site (Pines Site).

The radiation sampling survey and 2009 report, "Gamma Count Survey, Pines, Indiana" (report) was reviewed by qualified EPA and contractor personnel. Our perspective on this information was discussed with the PINES Group in 2009 when it was first submitted. In those discussions, and in our subsequent October 12, 2011 email message, we articulated the report's weaknesses, which limit its usefulness.

We are currently reviewing the Pines Site risk assessments. We will respond to the issues raised by the PINES Group in the October 2011 memo and to the recommendations in your attached January 27, 2012 letter, when we complete our review of the risk assessments. Completion of our review of the risk assessments is scheduled for the end of February 2012; our responses will be available shortly afterwards.

At this juncture, we believe that all data necessary to complete the Pines Site risk assessments have been collected. The remedial investigation included analysis of contaminants in: site-related coal combustion byproducts (CCBs) from Yard 520; CCBs from excavations in town; groundwater from monitoring wells in the Yard 520 contaminant plume; sediment from the adjacent ditch; and background soil samples. The risk assessments evaluated current and reasonable potential future risks from all relevant environmental media; and will serve as the basis for developing appropriate site cleanup actions.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you wish to discuss any of your concerns further, please do not hesitate to contact Matthew Ohl of my staff at 312-886-4442 or ohl.matthew@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard C. Karl". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Richard C. Karl, Director
Superfund Division